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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/628,306

**Applicant(s)**

NAKAMURA ET AL.

**Examiner**

Mitra Kianersi

**Art Unit**

2445

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26feb2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29july2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/IC)
- Paper No(s) Mail Date 01/17/08,05/22/07,07/29/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s) Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's argument filed on 02/26/2009 has been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Paragraph [A]: Applicant in page 1, lines 24-26 and page 2, lines 1-2 argues that Neither Minari nor Harvey teach or suggest the features consistent with the invention recited in claim 44 "the control information used for the printing operation is generated based on the print setup information provided by a user of the distributor terminal". Examiner's reply: Minari in Fig.5 and Fig.6 clearly illustrates the print processing program where a print job attribute section is included. Minari in Col 4, lines 34-39 discloses that print job attributes such as "job name", "origin of request", "request address", "request content", "text name", "paper size", "color/black and white", "priority", "print pages", "print copies", "print finished page", "print finished copy", and "result" are stored in the print job attribute section and in Col 4, lines 66-67 and Col 5, lines 1-3 explains that a print job processing program is selected from among several print job processing programs depending on the conditions for use of a substitute printer indicated by the user on the set screen shown in FIG. 2 and stored in the print job program section 501. Minari in Col 7, lines 66-67 and Col 8, lines 1-3 discloses that the print job object is processed by a printer that matches the print job attribute of the print job object. As a result, the user can print the print job produced by an application program on a suitable printer.

Paragraph [B]: Applicant in page 2, lines 7-9 argues that Minari fails to provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding an electronic mail address. Therefore, Minari does not teach, and cannot possibly suggest, the features of storing the electronic mail address at the print control server. Minari in Col 2, lines 60-63 discloses that in the network of WWW, the identification of printers is carried out by a uniform resource locator (URL) address. The URL address is converted into an internet address (similar to an e-mail address) by a service such as a domain name system (DNS). In the case where URL is not used, a name assigned to the printer is converted into an internet address by a service such as DNS. Minari in col 4, lines 10-15 discloses a controller which sends an output command to the output units, and a memory that is

equipped with a print job accumulator storing the print job object and also a printer attribute section which stores attributes of the printer (such as paper size of the cassette, capability for black and white or color printing, resolution, etc.). Because the arguments with respect to the allowableness of independent claims were found unpersuasive, these same arguments are not persuasive with respect to the other dependent claims.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minari et al. (US-Pat No: 6,809,831 B1) and further in view of Harvey et al. (Us-pat No: 6,519,568).

Claim 44: A printing system control method using a print control server, (Minari discloses a print control system in which an information processor is connected to a plurality of printers, a print job that includes a plurality of instructions and print data associated with the plurality of instructions are received from a network, see Abstract)

Minari do not teach the at least one print system and a distributor terminal which communicate with each other through a network, however Harvey in Col 4, lines 22-37, Harvey, discloses that the data server communicates with multiple remote delivery site computers for the simultaneous display of the oilfield data in near real time at the multiple delivery site computers in response to the workflow order. Harvey in Col 4, lines 61-65, Harvey discloses that the data server comprises a global communications network ("web") data server capable of transmitting oilfield data in near real-time to the multiple remote delivery site computers via a global communications network. Harvey also in (Col 19, lines 21-54, Harvey states that the print application server 125 sends a print request to a specified Product Delivery Center (PDC). Therefore, for the motivation

to achieve the applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ Harvey's invention and to consider data successfully 'delivered' when it is incorporated smoothly into the client's domain and is available for immediate use and decision-making. The printing system control method comprising:

- transmitting a request for a setup hypertext markup language (HTML) file from the distributor terminal to the print control server; (In the network of WWW, it is presumed that a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) which is a standard protocol is used in communication between the host computer and the printer. Therefore, in the network of WWW, the identification of printers is carried out by a uniform resource locator (URL) address. The URL address is converted into an internet address by a service such as a domain name system (DNS). In the case where URL is not used, a name assigned to the printer is converted into an internet address by a service such as DNS. Col 2, lines 54-67 and col 3, lines 1-5, Minari)

- transmitting the setup HTML file, from the print control server to the distributor terminal; (In the network of WWW, it is presumed that a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) which is a standard protocol is used in communication between the host computer and the printer. Therefore, in the network of WWW, the identification of printers is carried out by a uniform resource locator (URL) address. The URL address is converted into an internet address by a service such as a domain name system (DNS). In the case where URL is not used, a name assigned to the printer is converted into an internet address by a service such as DNS. Col 2, lines 54-67 and col 3, lines 1-5, Minari)

- transmitting print setup information and an electronic mail address for a user of the print system from the distributor terminal to the print control server; wherein the print setup information and the electronic mail address are provided by a user of the distributor terminal; (Minari in Col 2, lines 60-63 discloses that in the network of WWW, the identification of printers is carried out by a uniform resource locator (URL) address. The URL address is converted into an internet address (similar to an e-mail address) by a service such as a domain name system (DNS). In the case where URL is not used, a name assigned to the printer is converted into an internet address by a service such as DNS. Minari in col 4, lines 10-15 discloses a controller which sends an output command to the output units, and a memory that is equipped with a print job accumulator storing

the print job object and also a printer attribute section which stores attributes of the printer (such as paper size of the cassette, capability for black and white or color printing, resolution, etc. Minari).

-storing the electronic mail address at the print control server; (FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing a functional configuration of the host computers 101, 102. In a memory 201, an operating system OS, a control program, a control data, an application program, etc. are stored. A controller 202 controls the under mentioned portions on the basis of programs, data, etc. stored in the memory 201, an application 203 utilized by a user is executed by the controller 202. Col 2, lines 64-67 and col 3, lines 1-30, Minari)

-generating control information and a browsing HTML file at the print control server, wherein the control information is generated based on the print setup information, Minari in Fig.5 and Fig.6 clearly illustrates the print processing program where a print job attribute section is included. Minari in Col 4, lines 34-39 discloses that print job attributes such as "job name", "origin of request", "request address", "request content", "text name", "paper size", "color/black and white", "priority", "print pages", "print copies", "print finished page", "print finished copy", and "result" are stored in the print job attribute section and in Col 4, lines 66-67 and Col 5, lines 1-3 explains that a print job processing program is selected from among several print job processing programs depending on the conditions for use of a substitute printer indicated by the user on the set screen shown in FIG. 2 and stored in the print job program section 501. Minari in Col 7, lines 66-67 and Col 8, lines 1-3 discloses that the print job object is processed by a printer that matches the print job attribute of the print job object. As a result, the user can print the print job produced by an application program on a suitable printer, Minari).

wherein the browsing HTML file is for displaying image data which is associated with the print setup information; (application receives a print request from the user, the print job object is generated by the print job generator, and next it the generated print job object is sent to the printer by the print job transmitter. (Col 5, lines 28-32, Minari).

wherein the image data is provided by a user of the distributor terminal and is stored at the print control sever; and wherein the user of the print system can browse the browsing HTML file: (Fig.4 and he data delivery system (FIGS. 1, 10) periodically copies log data files (DLIS and

PDS) from the central data hub 16 to the data management center 14 with its archive system using a communications protocol, such as the transfer express protocol, together with a descriptive text file. The log database receiver in the data management center 14 processes then parses the description file to retrieve log data files to be loaded and archived. During the auto loading and archiving process, the database system continually updates a Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML) report, which the operator at the delivery site 12 consults via the central data hub 16. Col 13, lines 45-60) and (The end user, via a standard web browser, interacts with the central data hub web pages hosted by web server 111. The web server may be an Internet Information Server (IIS) which is a group of Internet servers (web, HTTP, FTP and Gopher) that operate with Microsoft's Windows NT server operating server, or the like. These web pages on the web server 111 make use of the Interface executable 112 which in turn relies on a database (such as Oracle) 113 to determine what to present to the user, and to store the commands specified by the user. For example, a user will prepare an order to initiate some data delivery operations and the user interacts via the web pages, the list of available data delivery options presented to the user is derived from information stored in the database. When the user builds a data delivery order, the description of the order is stored in the database as well 113. At some point the user is satisfied with the information contained in the delivery order, and decides to submit it for processing. (Col 18, lines 39-47, Harvey).

transmitting a uniform resource locator of the generated browsing HTML file, from the print control server to the electronic mail address; sending e-mail messages to a computer server as specified in the workflow order, converting data using a data conversion function as required in the workflow order or sending a hardcopy request to a product delivery center. Col 5, 42-48, Harvey).

-transmitting a request for the browsing HTML file, from the print system to the print control server; (application receives a print request from the user, the print job object is generated by the print job generator, and next it the generated print job object is sent to the printer by the print job transmitter. (Col 5, lines 28-32, Minari).

-transmitting the browsing HTML file from the print control server to the print system; browsing the browsing HTML file at the print system; (In the network of WWW, it is presumed that a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) which is a standard protocol is used in

communication between the host computer and the printer. Therefore, in the network of WWW, the identification of printers is carried out by a uniform resource locator (URL) address. The URL address is converted into an internet address by a service such as a domain name system (DNS). In the case where URL is not used, a name assigned to the printer is converted into an internet address by a service such as DNS. Col 2, lines 54-67 and col 3, lines 1-5)

-determining whether an execution of print has been instructed at the print system; (The received workflow order at the central data hub computer is then executed. If the task parameters are valid, the task is submitted for dispatch which comprises loading the description of the workflow order, breaking the workflow order into at least one task containing task parameters and task dependencies, if task dependencies are satisfied dispatching the task for execution, executing the task and monitoring task status. (Col 6, lines 17-25, Harvey)

-wherein if an execution of print instructed, then an operation is performed, (The received workflow order at the central data hub computer is then executed. If the task parameters are valid, the task is submitted for dispatch which comprises loading the description of the workflow order, breaking the workflow order into at least one task containing task parameters and task dependencies, if task dependencies are satisfied dispatching the task for execution, executing the task and monitoring task status. (Col 6, lines 17-25, Harvey), the operation comprising:

-transmitting a request for print information, including the generated control information, from the print system to the print control server; transmitting the control information and the image data from the print control server to the print system; and executing a printing operation at the print system. (In FIG. 1, as shown by an arrow A, a print job object 110 is first transferred from the host computer 101 to the print controller 103 of the printer 107. Then, in the case where print processing based on the print job object is not suitable for the printer 107, or in the case where an obstacle occurs during the print processing, as shown by an arrow B, the print job object 110 is transferred from the printer 107 to the printer 108. Consequently, in the printer 108, the print processing based on the print job object 110 is continued. Col 3, lines 6-15) and (Print job attribute section 502 that stores the print job attributes displayed on the set screen shown in FIG. 2 or set on the set screens and other print job attributes and a print data section 503 that stores print data output by the output units 105 and 106 based on the attributes. (Col 4, lines 16-27, Minari)



-transmitting the control information and the image data from the print control server to the print system; (In FIG. 1, as shown by an arrow A, a print job object 110 is first transferred from the host computer 101 to the print controller 103 of the printer 107. Then, in the case where print processing based on the print job object is not suitable for the printer 107, or in the case where an obstacle occurs during the print processing, as shown by an arrow B, the print job object 110 is transferred from the printer 107 to the printer 108. Consequently, in the printer 108, the print processing based on the print job object 110 is continued. Col 3, lines 6-15) and (Print job attribute section 502 that stores the print job attributes displayed on the set screen shown in FIG. 2 or set on the set screens and other print job attributes and a print data section 503 that stores print data output by the output units 105 and 106 based on the attributes. (Col 4, lines 16-27, Minari).

executing a printing operation at the print system, (In Fig. 1, as shown by an arrow A, a print job object 110 is first transferred from the host computer 101 to the print controller 103 of the printer 107. Then, in the case where print processing based on the print job object is not suitable for the printer 107, or in the case where an obstacle occurs during the print processing, as shown by an arrow B, the print job object 110 is transferred from the printer 107 to the printer 108. Consequently, in the printer 108, the print processing based on the print job object 110 is continued. Col 3, lines 6-15) and (Print job attribute section 502 that stores the print job attributes displayed on the set screen shown in FIG. 2 or set on the set screens and other print job attributes and a print data section 503 that stores print data output by the output units 105 and 106 based on the attributes. Col 4, lines 16-27, Minari).

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitra Kianersi whose telephone number is (571)272-3915. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571)272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/VIVEK SRIVASTAVA/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2445